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BOURNE  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and the

Public Health Inspector

For the Year 1956

## **PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE**

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### **Chairman:**

COUNCILLOR DR. G. HOLLOWAY, C.C.

### **Members:**

Councillor J. S. BRUMLEY

„ J. BURCHNELL

„ L. R. W. DAY, M.A., J.P.

„ DR. J. A. GALLELY

„ J. R. GRUMMITT

„ H. L. HUDSON, C.C.

„ MRS. I. E. PICK

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### **Medical Officer of Health:**

H. ELLIS SMITH, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

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### **Public Health Inspector:**

L. W. BROWN, M.R.S.H.

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### **Clerks:**

N. E. BELLAMY

MISS F. WADE

# BOURNE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1956

To the Chairman and Members of  
the Bourne Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my third Annual Report on the Vital Statistics, Health and Sanitary Conditions of the Urban District.

The Birth Rate at 14.25 per thousand is slightly less favourable than the Rate for England and Wales of 15.7.

The Death Rate at 13.20 is higher than the national figure of 11.7 and yet this must be equated to the fact that when one considers ages at death, three out of four were 70 years of age or over and one in every three were in their eightieth year or more.

The Infantile Mortality Rate for England and Wales was 23.8, incidentally for the second year running it improved on the lowest previously recorded level. The Urban District bettered this with a Rate of 13.51.

There was a very low incidence of infectious notifiable disease throughout the year and the general health of the community was good. During the late Autumn, there was a high incidence of vomiting throughout the Bourne Junior School population. The complaint was marked by its sudden onset and invasiveness rather than by its severity. The symptoms were mainly nausea and vomiting of relatively short duration. Swabs, including those from drinking mugs and desks yielded negative results and the picture seemed to be one of epidemic Winter vomiting due to a virus.

Nine years of freedom from Diphtheria probably accounts for the fact that more mothers seem interested in protecting their children against Whooping Cough than this disease. It is understandable but a very irrational response to our present immunity. To meet it, a greater use of a combined Diphtheria and Whooping Cough vaccine might be the answer and to this could be added protection against Tetanus.

Diseases of the cardio-vascular system are the principal causes of death, followed by malignant growths.

During the year there was a staff re-organisation. Mr. Howard, who had been Public Health Inspector, took over responsibility for the Council's surveying duties, housing management and water, but I am glad to say the Health Department still has access to his valuable past experience. Mr. Brown was promoted Public Health Inspector and I would like to thank him for his support and zeal on all matters appertaining to the health of the public whom we serve.

The spate of new health legislation continues and the work of marrying the Statute Book to our everyday lives becomes ever more demanding.

Life in all its modern complexity makes relaxation and tranquility of mind very difficult to achieve. It is the lack of these attributes which is a big contributory factor in the increase of anxiety states and mental illness. A healthy mind in a healthy body is and must always be the aim of Preventive Medicine and maintenance of the former is the challenge of our day and age.

May I put in a plea for the continuance of all footpaths and Rights of Way which give access to the countryside. Admittedly, walking as a recreational and healthy pastime is less popular than of yore but the increasing congestion of the roads may in time make rural walks, in peace and security, more appealing. It would be sad when that day comes to find the facilities were curtailed.

This annual review would not be complete without a mention of the elderly person living alone or the old couple with failing physical and mental resources, yet very jealous of their independence. This makes helping them difficult. The solution of their problem is outside the scope of the hospital or residential accommodation services.

I would like to thank the Members of the Council and in particular the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their keen interest and support in all aspects of the work, my colleagues on the staff and also Dr. Galletly for standing by for me when I have been away.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

H. ELLIS SMITH,

Medical Officer of Health.

## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area in acres ... ... ... ... ...	10,103
Population—Registrar General's Figures 1956 ...	5,050
Number of Inhabited Houses ... ... ...	1,664
Rateable Value ... ... ... ...	£51,468
Sum represented by a 1d. rate ...	£200

## VITAL STATISTICS

### Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year 1956

Note Birth and Death Rates.

As the age and sex distribution of the population in different areas materially affects both the Birth and Death rates of these areas, comparability factors allowing for this are issued by the Registrar General for each Local Government Unit. These factors may be used for calculating what are termed in this Report as Nett Rates and fairer comparisons are obtained if the latter are used when comparing rates with those of any other area (when these have been similarly adjusted) or with the rates for the Country as a whole.

These factors for Births and Deaths in respect of Bourne U.D. are 0.97 and 0.94 respectively. The corresponding figures when multiplied by the Crude Rate (that is, for Births or Deaths as the case may be) will give the Nett Rate.

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Total Live Births ... ...	41	33	74
Legitimate ... ...	40	32	72
Illegitimate ... ...	1	1	2

Crude live birth rate per 1,000 of estimated population 14.69

Nett live birth rate per 1,000 of estimated population 14.25

Rate for England and Wales ... ... ... ... 15.7

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Still Births ... ... ...	1	1	2

Still birth rate per 1,000 live and still births ... ... 26.32

Rate of England and Wales ... ... ... ... 23.0

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Deaths ... ... ...	31	40	71

Crude death rate per 1,000 of estimated population 14.06

Nett death rate per 1,000 of estimated population ... 13.20

Rate of England and Wales ... ... ... ... 11.7

Infantile Mortality (i.e. Deaths of Infants under the age of one year):

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
No. of deaths	...	0	2
Legitimate	...	0	2
Illegitimate	...	0	0
Rate per 1,000 of live births	...	...	13.51
Rate of England and Wales	...	...	23.8
(One of these occurred in the neo-natal period, i.e. under 4 weeks of age).			

Maternal Mortality (i.e. Deaths due to Pregnancy and Child-birth or abortion): *Nil.*

### CAUSES OF DEATH

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Malignant neoplasms, uterus	...	—	I
Malignant neoplasms, stomach	...	—	I
Malignant neoplasms, lung bronchus	...	I	—
Malignant neoplasms, breast	...	—	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	3	3	6
Vascular lesions of nervous system	6	6	12
Coronary disease angina	...	5	II
Other heart disease	...	8	9
Pneumonia	...	I	I
Hyperplasia of Prostate	...	I	—
Diabetes	...	—	I
Hypertension with heart disease	...	I	—
Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	I	—
Other disease of respiratory system	...	—	I
Congenital malformations	...	—	I
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	2	2
Motor vehicle accidents	...	I	I
All other accidents	...	I	—

### HEALTH SERVICES OF THE AREA

#### Nursing in the Home

Under the County Council Scheme, there are two District Nurse Midwives.

#### Home Helps

Home Helps are provided by the County Council in approved

cases. The Local Headquarters are at the North Street Clinic, Bourne. Open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 2 p.m.

### **Health Visiting**

Under the County Council Scheme, one full-time Visitor is employed for the work within the Urban District and she also covers some of the surrounding area.

### **Ambulance Service**

The Ambulance Service continues to work smoothly and efficiently. There are 3 ambulances and one dual-purpose vehicle stationed at Bourne Ambulance Depot. Attendants are provided by the B.R.C.S. and St. John's.

Full Hospital Services are provided by the East Anglian Regional Hospital Board.

### **Tuberculosis Clinic**

A Tuberculosis Clinic is held at the Bourne Isolation Hospital each Thursday afternoon under Dr. Bernard Royce, Consulting Chest Physician.

### **Venereal Diseases**

Clinics are held at the Out-patient Department Memorial Hospital, Peterborough, under Dr. N. A. Ross.

Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, 5.30—7 p.m.

Tuesdays, 10.30—12 noon.

### **Infant Welfare**

An Infant Welfare Centre is provided by the County Council at the National School, North Street, Bourne, and a School Clinic is held in the same premises each Thursday morning.

Regular Ophthalmic, Dental, Physiotherapy and Speech Therapy sessions are also held as part of the School Medical Services.

Free Diphtheria Immunisation is provided by the Medical Practitioners under the County Council Scheme and also at the Infant Welfare Clinic through which vaccination against Smallpox can also be arranged.

### **Laboratory Facilities**

Bacteriological investigations are provided by the Public Health Laboratory at Peterborough under Dr. H. Fulton. This valuable service includes examination of milk and water samples and general bacteriological examinations for both the Medical Practitioners and the Public Health Service.

## PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

	Diphtheria	Puerperal Pyrexia	Pneumonia	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Measles	Whooping Cough	Erysipelas	Dysentery	Scarlet Fever	Acute Poliomyelitis	Cerebro Spinal Fever	Paratyphoid Fever	Food Poisoning	Total
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1—2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	2	6
3—4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
5—9	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	2	12
9—15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
15—20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20—35	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
35—45	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
45—65	-	-	1	-	-	-	5	2	-	-	-	-	2	10
65 and over	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	5
Total	-	-	5	-	4	-	7	4	10	-	-	-	9	39
Admitted into Hospital	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2

There were 39 cases of Notifiable Infectious Diseases during the year compared with 344 in 1955 and 72 in 1954. This low figure reflects the virtual absence of Measles and Whooping Cough during the period under review.

It is gloomy to reflect that one-third of the cases were made up of Food Poisoning and Dysentery. Each one of these necessitates a wide check-up on contacts and suspected vehicles of infection and this is time consuming and costly. The individual and the community pay dearly for the luxury of unhygienic lapses.

The streptococcal group of diseases were down to 10 from the previous year's figure of 12.

The Ministries of Education and Health in their Memorandum on the exclusion of child contacts from school, ironed out the anomalous position as between contacts of Scarlet Fever and of the same organism without the erythematous factor and exclusion from school of child contacts of the former is no longer insisted upon.

There were no cases of Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis during the year. In the early Summer, the first issue of the new Anti-Poliomyelitis Vaccine was made but no-one within the District qualified for vaccination.

There was no case of Diphtheria in 1956 and there have been none since the thirteen cases reported in 1947.

The policy of sending a letter to the occupier in any household where a case of infectious disease was notified, telling him of his responsibilities under the Public Health Act in preventing the spread of infection was continued.

## TUBERCULOSIS

### NEW CASES AND MORTALITY IN 1956:

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0—1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1—2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2—5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5—15	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
15—25	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25—35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35—45	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45—55	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
55—65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

There was one death from Pulmonary Tuberculosis during the year after a year of freedom in 1955.

Three new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified compared with three in 1955 and five in 1954.

The Mass Radiography Unit of the East Anglian Regional Hospital Board visited Bourne from May 14th to 24th — which included Whitsuntide. The statistics of their visit are appended:—

POPULATION: 5,100.

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
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Number attended for X-ray:

General Public and small firms	...	...	869	691	1560
Schoolchildren	...	...	123	150	273
School staff—teaching	...	...	14	17	31
domestic	...	...	1	10	11
Doctor's requests	...	...	1	1	2
St. Peter's Hospital patients and staff	—	...	7	101	108
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	...	1015	970	1985	<hr/>

Number X-rayed for the first time

516

464

980

Number recalled for further full size films

40

35

75

Defaulters for full size films

4

—

4

## ANALYSIS OF FINDINGS

### A. NON-TUBERCULOUS CONDITIONS

1. Congenital anomalies of ribs and bony thorax	14	11	25
2. Old fractures of ribs ...	2	—	2
3. Azygos lobe vein ...	—	3	3
4. Chronic bronchitis and emphysema ... ...	6	3	9
5. Bronchiectasis and honeycomb lung ....	4	1	5
6. Atypical pneumonia ...	3	—	3
7. Diaphragmatic anomalies —	—	2	2
8. Congenital cardiac conditions ... ...	2	—	2
9. Acquired cardiac conditions ... ...	5	4	9
10. Lung cyst ... ...	—	1	1
11. Pleural thickening from previous pneumonia and/or pleurisy ...	36	13	49
12. Neoplasm? (result of investigation not yet available. Referred to Thoracic Surgeon) ...	1	—	1

### B. TUBERCULOUS CONDITIONS

1. Healed primary or old calcified lesions requiring no further action ...	15	12	27
2. Previously diagnosed tuberculosis already under supervision ...	3	2	5
3. Newly discovered significant tuberculosis requiring:—			
(a) treatment ... ...	2	1	3
(b) further observations at the Chest Clinic	1	—	1

Of the three new cases picked up in the Survey, one resided in the Urban District and two lived in the adjoining Rural District of South Kesteven. It is of interest that almost a half of those X-rayed on this visit were availing themselves of the opportunity

tor the first time. At the conclusion of the visit there was still an unsatisfied demand for appointments and a somewhat longer stay would have been justifiable to meet the response from the public.

Dr. Daphne Smith, the Medical Director of the Unit who always conducts these surveys with such verve and energy, did suggest that in view of the very general and cordial co-operation given by this Authority and the local organisations, consideration should be given to the carrying out of a Community-type Survey, on Scandinavian lines, in Bourne at a later date. This envisages the formation of a local committee which would shoulder the task of getting every X-rayable person to the Unit.

The success of the 1956 Survey was in no small measure due to the voluntary workers who so willingly distributed leaflets and propaganda.

### **Food Poisoning**

In the last quarter of the year 9 cases of food poisoning occurred.

Five of these were originally thought to be cases of dysentery but routine laboratory examinations revealed that the responsible organism was the *Salmonella Typhi-murium*. Three further cases were discovered among the contacts but these were mild. Extensive investigations, extending to domestic pets, failed to reveal the source of the infections. Some sixty specimens were taken for examination.

### **SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA**

The water supply is obtained from the Lincolnshire Limestone by means of 13 inch and 36 inch bores.

The supply has been satisfactory both in quality and quantity during the year, though naturally having regard to its source, it is hard to the extent of 35.0 parts per 100,000 of total hardness. It is chlorinated as a routine and is obtained as a bulk supply from the Spalding U.D.C. Water Undertaking situated in Bourne.

Ministerial consent to proceed with the new sewage works was received with heart-felt relief. The archaic system in existence could have no worse epitaph than to say that the analysis of the final effluent was indistinguishable from that of the flow entering the works. The work I know will be pressed forward expeditiously as also will that of the necessary tentacle to the main scheme—the re-sewering of North Street. This latter is bound to cause considerable local upheaval but it will be accepted in the knowledge of the benefits to come, I am sure.

The swimming bath provided by the Bourne United Charities for the enjoyment of all who like to swim or watch is blessed with surroundings of great natural charm and beauty. There has been a complete modernisation of the sanitary conveniences at the baths, a water-carriage system having been installed during the close season and the chlorination system improved. The bath is now as aesthetic as its setting and that is no faint praise.

## HOUSING

Number of Council Houses as at 31st December, 1956 — 444.

Number of Council Houses built during the year ended 31st December, 1956 — 18 flats, 1 bungalow/shop.

Number of private houses built during the year — 7.

Number of improvement grants given — 2.

108 houses were included in the five-year Slum Clearance Programme which was submitted to the Ministry. Up to the 31st December, 1956, twenty-six of these had been dealt with as follows:—

Clearance Orders	...	...	12
Demolition Orders	...	...	8
Closing Orders	...	...	4
Undertakings	...	...	2

Building to accommodate those who will have to be re-housed is necessarily a big undertaking, particularly at a time when money is so dear, but the need is great. The construction of a modern well-designed house, bungalow or flat such as has been done this year is, and will remain, a great asset to the Council, a blessing to the tenant and give many years low-maintenance cost. Furthermore, if erected for re-housing under the Slum Clearance Programme, it will earn a full grant. There are other forms of housing unit which could lay the foundation stones of a not too distant future slum-clearance programme.

Housing units to meet the needs of the elderly and the small family remain most in demand and with population trends what they are, the picture is not likely to change radically in the foreseeable future.

Close liaison and planning between those responsible for the Slum Clearance Programme and Building Programme remains a paramount necessity.

Consideration has been given to the installation of hot-water systems in pre-war Council Houses.

The Council operates a points scheme for re-housing Council house applicants. Advancement is given on health grounds and in all cases where this claim is made, consideration of the clinical facts and a personal visit by the Medical Officer of Health are carried out before a recommendation is made.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

The Council slaughterhouse has been modernised and fully-equipped to provide a first class service to the town — and also serves many far beyond it. The new hanging room is a great acquisition to the premises. That the standard is by no means universal is reflected by the fact that the American Army in Europe would not accept meat slaughtered in this Country for their troops on the grounds that they were not satisfied with its hygienic integrity; a part explanation for the large live-cattle trade with the continent. A humiliating thought.

Two other slaughterhouses are also licensed in the district. 100 per cent. meat inspection is maintained.

On 1st October, Bourne became a Specified Area within the meaning of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955. After that date, only designated milk could be retailed and the retail milk-can disappeared to be relegated to the museum. This was a notable step forward in the campaign to ensure safe milk supplies.

It is of interest that in last year's Report on the Animal Health Services in Great Britain, issued by the Ministry of Agriculture, it is claimed that at the present rate of progress by the early 1960's Bovine Tuberculosis should for all practical purposes be a thing of the past in Britain. This disease has taken a heavy toll of human life and health in the past and its eradication would be a major triumph.

The Food Hygiene Regulations 1955 became operative this year and require all who process, handle or expose foodstuffs for sale to adopt standards which ought to reduce to a marked degree the incidence of contamination—and its possible sequelae, Food Poisoning and Dysentery. The task of inspecting the food premises in the area has been done with helpful tact and understanding by the Health Inspector and he has always been ready to offer friendly advice whenever it has been asked. Legislation alone is not sufficient, education of food handler and customer alike is

equally necessary. Eating out is now a part of the National way of life and the challenge thrown down by this fact is enormous.

During the year the Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures of the County Council took 18 samples for analysis under the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act 1955:—

Butter .....	1	Milk .....	7
Cheese spread .....	1	Orange drink .....	2
Cream (double) ....	2	Pork pie .....	1
Liquid paraffin .....	1	Soft drinks .....	3

The milk samples averaged 3.64 per cent. butter fat and 8.91 per cent. other solids and were well above the statutory minimum standards and prove that the Bourne milk supplies are obtained from good quality herds.

In no case was legal proceedings necessary in respect of any infringement.

### National Assistance Act.

No action under Section 47 of this Act was necessary during the year.

### Health Education

Use was again made of the posters and publications produced by the Central Council for Health Education. Propaganda material was widely distributed in connection with the visit of the Mass Radiography Unit and the aims and objects of the Food Hygiene Regulations. It is the spoken word and the impact of the converted on the unconverted that ultimately are the most potent forces in the moulding of public opinion and producing results.

## **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1956**

To the Chairman and Members of the Bourne Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my first Annual Report.

### **Housing**

This year saw the end of Phase 1 and the beginning of Phase 2 of the Council's five year Slum Clearance Programme which has proved a generally unpopular, nevertheless worthwhile, attempt to improve housing conditions of those unable or unwilling to do so themselves.

The progress of the scheme is almost entirely dependent upon the availability of alternative accommodation provided by the Council which is having to focus much of its resources to this end with consequent unavoidable dismay to those applicants on the Council's waiting list who are not in scheduled property.

It is unfortunately a fact that some of the people living in sub standard property at a rent of around 3/6 per week must experience hardship from the colossal upheaval in their way of life produced by a changeover to perhaps 25/- or more per week rent, albeit with healthier living conditions but generally there is no reason why the majority cannot adjust themselves to paying for a newly acquired healthy environment. Little tolerance is due to those who are wont to regard the luxuries of life as essential, denying themselves and, more important, their children decent living conditions in the process.

Since the commencement of the Scheme which involves 108 houses 26 had been dealt with up to the 31st December, 1956, and in addition decisions were pending on 11 houses the subject of Section 11 procedure at the year's end.

During the year, confirmation was received on Victoria Place No. 1 Clearance Order which involves 8 houses; demolition orders were made on 3 houses; 4 others were demolished and Section 11 procedure was commenced on 13 dwellings, 2 of which became the subject of undertakings to recondition.

A photographic record is made of all houses subject to demolition for the interest of the next generation who it is hoped will find such conditions 'strange.'

Two improvements grants were paid in accordance with the Housing Act 1949 as amended and it is a pity that more do not

take advantage of this scheme to modernise their dwellings at approximately half cost; it is rare these days that one is offered something for nothing and more astonishing that so little advantage is taken of such an offer.

#### A. INSPECTION OF HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

Number inspected for defects	...	...	...	...	66
Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	185
Number of defective houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action	...	...	...	...	42
Number of defective houses rendered fit after service of formal notices under the Public Health Act 1936	...	...	...	...	3

#### B. OVERCROWDING.

1 (a) Number of houses overcrowded at end of year	...	...	...	...	1
(b) Number of families resident therein	...	...	...	...	1
(c) Number of persons concerned	...	...	...	...	6½
2 (a) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	...	...	2
(b) Number of persons concerned	...	...	...	...	18

#### Food

New legislation in the form of the Food and Drugs Act 1955 and Food Hygiene Regulations marked a welcome step forward; generally, the Regulations require the production of clean food by clean people in clean premises with emphasis on the keeping clean of those subjects and no lesser standard could be expected in this age; education will continue to be an important factor in promoting clean handling of food but this in itself is not always sufficient; even the schoolmaster needs to keep a cane handy.

Some businesses responded to our preliminary offer of advice on meeting their new obligations and soon improved their standards but among a majority, initial interest was not reflected in a readiness to expend money and trouble and a "wait and see" attitude was prevalent until premises were officially inspected and shortcomings drawn to the attention of those responsible; one formal notice provoked compliance where personal approach was bluntly unacceptable and one business was discontinued, hygiene requirements being economically unpracticable.

The increasing trend toward selling "dirty" fruit and vegetables as a side-line or in general shops where a staff of one is employed and where open sweets, cakes and even cooked meats are handled creates a problem, as precautions against cross contamination are of necessity poor.

It was regretted that slaughterhouses were excluded from hygiene legislation and the difference in legal standards for these premises and others in the meat trade who have been prominent by their readiness to comply with a new standard, has produced

perplexity and a certain amount of resentment. Private slaughterhouse byelaws, suitably amended to cope with the circumstances in the district and to effect some relationship with the Food Hygiene Regulations were submitted for the Minister's approval.

The following schedule details the types of food businesses operating in the area:—

SHOPS	OTHERS	
Butchers .....	8	Restaurants, cafes .....
General provisions .....	12	Bakehouses .....
Wet fish .....	2	Public houses .....
Fried fish .....	3	Occasional caterers .....
Cake confectionery .....	4	Market stalls .....
Sweet confectionery ....	12	School canteens etc. ....
Fruit and vegetable ....	5	Fish frier (mobile) .....
General .....	7	Vans (assorted) .....
		Miscellaneous .....
		12

21 premises are registered in accordance with Section 16, Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

197 visits of inspection were involved in connection with the administration of the Regulations; bakehouses received additional attention under the Factories Acts; an enlightening review of public house sanitary conveniences resulted in many being referred to the brewers for attention.

**Milk.**—The district was officially designated a Specified Area on the 1st October and resulted in two retailers of raw, undesigned milk discontinuing, leaving five retailers of Tuberculin Tested, Pasteurised and Sterilised milk to which the area is now restricted. Thus we have seen the last of the handcan and the jug on the doorstep. Four samples of local supply were taken and found free from tubercle and the County Council reported that the 7 samples taken for chemical analysis were satisfactory. The continuing incidence of tuberculosis in stock admitted to slaughterhouses constantly recalls the blessings of pasturisation and attestation.

**Ice cream.**—There are 14 retailers of this commodity, 10 of which are registered in accordance with the Food and Drugs Act 1955; two vans pay spasmodic visits to Bourne from neighbouring areas. Most of the supplies come from the Big Three and some from a County firm outside the district and there is one manufacturer of ice-lollies in the town who produces for his own retail.

9 samples were taken and found to be of a satisfactory standard.

**Meat supplies.**—These occupied by far the greatest amount of attention once again; post-mortem examination of all animals slaughtered in the three slaughterhouses was maintained.

The pattern of quality altered little but an increased incidence of *Cysticercus bovis* was noticeable.

All three slaughterhouses were the subject of voluntary improvement by proud owners; the Council saw the completion of the new cooling hall which effected considerable improvement in working conditions and, with additional modern equipment, facilitates better hygiene.

Close to 1,000 visits to slaughterhouses were recorded. A total of 8,172 animals was examined for fitness for human consumption during the year and this figure may be analysed as follows:—

Bulls	Steers	Heifers	Cows	Calves
8	1068	326	337	74
Sheep	Pigs	Horses	Deer	
3924	1957	476	2	

The following table gives details of carcases and offal examined and particulars of diseases found together with the extent to which the animals were affected.

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed ... ... ...	1402	337	74	3924	1957	476
Number examined ... ...	1402	337	74	3924	1957	476
All diseases except Tuberculosis :						
(a) Whole carcases condemned ... ... ...	40	53	7	57	8	5
(b) Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	178	42	12	37	59	112
Percentage of number examined affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ... ... ...	15.54	28.19	25.65	2.4	3.42	24.58
Tuberculosis :						
(a) Whole carcases condemned ... ... ...	13	30	1	—	3	—
(b) Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	121	45	2	—	54	—
Percentage of number examined affected with Tuberculosis ... ... ...	9.55	22.25	4.05	—	2.91	—
Cysticercosis						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ... ... ...	19	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	18	(one carcase was voluntarily surrendered for destruction).				

The total weight of meat and offal found to be unfit for human consumption was :—

<b>Meat</b>				<b>Offal</b>			
32 tons	19 cwts.	19 lbs.		9 tons	7 cwts.	16 lbs.	

The disposal of unfit meat and offal is undertaken by a local firm. A national problem arises out of consideration for the end product of unfit meat and sterilising *and* thorough staining of all meat not intended for human consumption would appear to be the only fair solution. At the moment, there is nothing to prevent diseased meat being sold for animal consumption but what happens *after* it is sold for this purpose? The housewife, who may utilise the kitchen table, knife, fork and saucepan for her pet's food is hardly aware of the possible danger; there may also be unscrupulous caterers willing to run a risk.

**Slaughtermen.**—7 licences were issued authorising holders to act in this capacity, three of the licences providing for the slaughter of horses.

**Fatstock Marketing Scheme.** — 218 pigs were presented for Certification for subsidy in accordance with this Scheme at the Deadweight Certificate Centre at the Council's slaughterhouse.

Minor consignments of retail foodstuffs were found unfit as follows:—

Canned meat	...	...	...	200 lbs.	14 ozs.
Canned fruit and vegetables	...			29 lbs.	4 ozs.
Meat	...	...	...	50 lbs.	
Miscellaneous items	...	...		1 lb.	10 ozs.

Circumstances and luck play a part in the success or failure of safeguarding our food but it will be seen from the foregoing account that their role is reduced to a practical minimum as a result of a great deal of thought, effort and money devoted to the major factors governing food protection, by the Government, the Trades and the Local Authority and the consumer must realise that this attention should not end with the sale—the consumer, particularly the all important housewife, must play his or her part and treat the family's food with the respect to which it and the family are due.

**Water supplies.**—Not all premises in the area are supplied with mains water and one private bore supply was found to be polluted and steps taken to secure a suitable alternative supply. 7 samples of water supplies were taken and found to be of a satisfactory bacteriological nature.

## Workplaces.

**Factories.**—The following schedule gives account of the work undertaken in this direction during the year:—

	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices
Factories without mechanical power ...	10	4	1
Factories in which S.7 only is enforced in Part I ... ... ...	46	42	7
Other premises in which S.7 is enforced	8	5	1

Non-compliance with statutory obligations was found in twelve cases and the necessary steps taken to effect remedy mainly to defective sanitary accommodation.

**Shops.**—Forty Shops were inspected in connection with the relevant provisions of the Shops Act 1950 and the necessary remedial action in the case of four defaults was effected.

**Farms.**—The Agriculture (Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions) Act, 1956, was introduced for the purposes provided in its title. The local authority is made responsible for securing the provision and proper maintenance of sanitary conveniences for farm workers; the Minister may also make Regulations for requiring agricultural contractors to provide such accommodation for employees and there is need for this in this and similar localities. Most of the administration of the Act is not undertaken by local authorities, it being rather outside their sphere but one wonders why washing facilities are excluded from their jurisdiction in view of the obvious relationship with sanitary conveniences.

## Schools

A replacement Senior Secondary Modern School is in course of erection. Apart from this, there are five schools provided by the Education Authority and these have seen worthwhile improvement in the year, particularly in connection with implementation of the new standard set by the Food Hygiene Regulations.

An investigation was called for into an outbreak of sickness among children at one school. It is a pity that communal drinking vessels still exist in some premises and consideration is being given to drinking jets which should remove yet another source of contagion.

Nothing but the best is good enough in these premises where the impressionable young mind may have instilled a proper respect for cleanliness which will stand him and the community in good stead now and in the future.

## **Swimming Pool**

Routine sampling and testing of chlorination efficiency was undertaken throughout the season and the forthcoming season should benefit from the lessons learned. It is pleasing to record that the Trustees commenced the provision of new sanitary accommodation and an additional intake to promote better distribution of chlorinated water both of which will be ready for the coming season.

## **Pest Control**

One flea infestation was dealt with.

Rodent control flowed smoothly with conscientious attention by your part-time Rodent Operator who re-couped the set-backs of the previous year when the position was rather unsettled. Habitual infestations of the sewage works and refuse tip were given particular attention and good progress made—so good in fact that complaints were received from local young sportsmen that they had been deprived of much of their game.

One prosecution was made in the case of a householder allowing accumulations on his premises and thereby harbouring rats; a fine of £2 was effected.

The following are particulars of rodent control work undertaken by the Operator during the year:—

Number of properties inspected on survey or as a result of complaint	...	...	...	174
Number of properties treated	...	...	...	75
Total number of visits involved	...	...	...	469
Infestations referred to Agricultural Committee				2
Two sewer maintenance treatments were carried out.				

## **Infectious Diseases**

Notifiable cases are visited as a routine measure towards effecting some control over spread of infection and one still meets the occasional instance where lack of parental control over infectious children is the cause of unnecessary inconvenience and illness to others.

A disinfection service for library books is undertaken.

## **Refuse**

A refuse collection service is undertaken in the town area weekly and in the remainder of the district fortnightly under the direction of your Surveyor.

The provision of proper dustbins where required was secured without resort to formal action and the logical view that the occupier of unfurnished accommodation should expect to provide this essential item appears to be gaining in acceptance; once provided, however, its reason is all too often forgotten and many interiors become wet and foul and lids left off to provide the perfect attraction to flies, those fellow-travellers who have become such a natural part of our lives that they tend to be ignored in spite of their danger to our health, until they become an inconvenience.

The refuse tip, a water-filled quarry pit, was fenced off and one now seldom sees young children risking their health and lives in search of "treasure" in this unsavoury spot.

### Miscellaneous

**Pet Animals Act, 1951.**—One shop is licensed for this purpose; little stock is kept and conditions are satisfactory.

**Clean Air Act, 1956.**—This gives local authorities new powers and duties for the prevention of air pollution and provides for smoke control areas, control over height of chimneys and new furnace installations, and provision for an appliance restriction in local byelaws, etc.; fouling of the atmosphere is not a major problem in a district such as Bourne and the Act will find little application by this Council.

97 matters of a miscellaneous nature were dealt with following complaint, survey or request for advice and resulted in 34 informal notifications and the service of 3 statutory notices for remedial works. Matters thus dealt with ranged from human to structural frailties.

Mr. Howard severed his official connection with the Department after nine years in combined office, during which his tireless devotion produced considerable progress in a difficult period. I lost a fine 'chief' but retain an ever-helpful and understanding colleague.

I wish to take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the keen interest and support extended by the Members of the Council and my colleagues on the staff during the year.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours respectfully,

L. W. BROWN,

Public Health Inspector.



